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FROM: TUNIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 195, SEPTEMBER 20, 5 PM FOI, EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

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LE PETIT MATIN SEPTEMBER 18 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY MAURICE MASCHINO ACCUSING US NAVAL VESSELS OF WANTONLY FIRING AUGUST 24 ON BUILDINGS IN HAVANA HOUSING CIVILIANS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN. ARTICLE CONTINUES THIS NOT FIRST ATTACK ON CUBA. IN APRIL 1961 US MERCENARIES DEBARDED ON ISLAND BUT THEY WERE DEFEATED. US HAS SINCE KEPT UP STEADY HARASSMENT. IF THIS ATTACK SURPRISES ANYONE IT IS BECAUSE WESTERN PRESS COVERS UP YANKEE CRIMES WITH COMPLACENT SILENCE. IN CUBA NO ONE SURPRISED. THEY KNOW US HAS NOT YET ADMITTED CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IS IRREVERSIBLE AND THEY DO THEIR UTMOST TO CHECK IT. WHY SUCH OUTBURSTS AGAINST CUBANS? BECAUSE CUBA WILL BECOME A MILITARY BASE FOR SOVIET OFFENSE AGAINST US? WHO CAN SERIOUSLY BELIEVE CUBA WILL ACT AGGRESSIVELY AGAINST US? SOVIETS ARE NOT PLANNING ATTACK US. KHRUSHCHEV HAS OTHER MEANS LIQUIDATE IMPERIALISM. AMERICANS ARE ONLY AWAITING JUSTIFICATION FOR SENDING MARINES.

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ARTICLE THEN CONTINUES CUBA HAS SHOWN EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY LATIN AMERICA, THAT YANKEE IMPERIALISM CAN BE OVERCOME AND IS THEREFORE IN AMERICAN EYES INCITING REVOLUTION. WHAT CUBANS HAVE DONE BRAZILIANS, MEXICANS, CHILEANS AND GUATEMALANS CAN DO TOMORROW. WRITER ACCUSES US SPENDING \$4,000 PER MINUTE, \$6,000,000 PER DAY AND \$2,000,000,000 PER YEAR TO TIE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO US.

WRITER CONSIDERS DIRECT US INTERVENTION UNLIKELY.

SOVIET UNION HELP TO CUBA WOULD BE IMMEDIATE AND THE

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INDIRECT INTERVENTION. SUCH INTERVENTION WILL COME TO NAUGHT AS CUBAN PEOPLE ARE BEHIND PRESENT REGIME. NOT ONLY SOLDIERS BUT WORKERS ARE ARMED. CONCLUSION IS SIMPLE: MERCENARIES TRAINED BY AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES, MONOPOLIES WHO FINANCE THEM, THE CONGRESS WHICH LEGISLATES IN THEIR INTEREST WILL NOT RECOVER CUBA. SUSTAINED BY SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, CUBAN REVOLUTION IS INVINCIBLE. CUBANS SAY "WE WILL CONQUER" AND THANKS TO THEM, SOON ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICAN WILL BREAK THEIR CHAINS.

COMMENT: LE PETIT MATIN GENERALLY CONSIDERED AS SEMI-OFFICIAL PAPER WHOSE CONTENTS COULD BE FIRMLY CONTROLLED BUT HAVE BEEN LOOSELY CONTROLLED BY GOT. SINCE FRENCH LANGUAGE EDITION AL AMAL BEGAN TO APPEAR FEW WEEKS AGO, GOT INTEREST HAS ALLEGEDLY WANED IN LE PETIT MATIN. FEW PEOPLE KNOW THIS HOWEVER AND APPEARANCE THIS SCURRILOUS ARTICLE IN PAPER GOT COULD CONTROL MIGHT BE TAKEN TO CONNOTE TOLERATION IF NOT APPROVAL BY A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION OUR AID PROGRAM.

USIS HAS ASKED FOR MATERIAL ON CUBA (TOUSI 56) AND BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE WE BELIEVE THAT LE PETIT MATIN WILL PRINT IT FOR US. BUT IN ADDITION UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED I INTEND SEIZE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO COMPLAIN TO EDITOR AND MAKE POINT WITH ESSAFT (FONMIN) THAT WHILE PEOPLE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CANNOT ESCAPE THIS TYPE PROPAGANDA, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY GOT SHOULD HARBOR THIS FRENCH COMMUNIST ESCAPEE AND PERMIT HIM TO MISLEAD TUN READERS WITH LIES AGAINST ONE OF TUNISIA'S BEST FRIENDS.

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